



# The Flash Paper

## October 2022

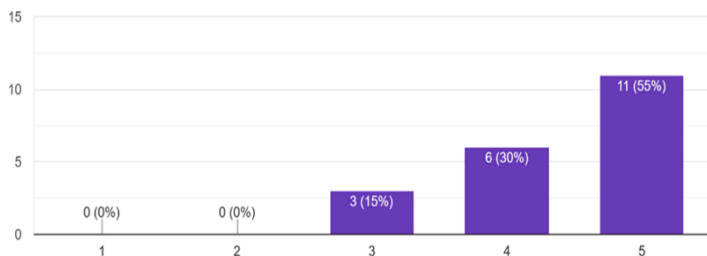
**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



## Prez Sez

Over the next couple of months, I'll be touching the things that came out of our recent club survey. Thanks to all who chose to participate. As you see in the tables, the response was positive. The Board discussed a number of tweaks we can make going forward.

How satisfied are you with the programming provided by the Omaha Magic Society?



One person commented about "maybe member outings to watch a member work a fair ... " If a member has an event they would like to promote, there are a couple of ways to get the word out. Our Facebook Group Page could be one such outlet. For example, I noticed that Joe Cole will be doing magic at the zoo again this year in the Wild Kingdom Pavilion throughout October. I asked if it was okay for me to post it on our Facebook page and have included info elsewhere in the newsletter. Perhaps

a couple of families would like to get together and make an evening of it.

### MAGIC OF THE NIGHT HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT



7:30PM  
Saturday, October 29th  
40th Street Theater  
Omaha, Nebraska

Several of us will be going to the 6th Annual Magic of the Night - Hiding in Plain Sight - to see **David Michael Fox, Ryan Chandler, Theron Christensen, Dennis Rourke,** and **Steve Lindeman** for an

evening of magic and mentalism sure to be a highlight of the Halloween season. See elsewhere in the newsletter and on the club's Facebook page for details on getting tickets.

You can also catch **Theron Christensen** on **Penn & Teller: Fool US** on October 21<sup>st</sup> on the CW here in Omaha, check local listing for details in your area.

Based on the feedback from the survey, we will also be more intentional about setting aside time after the meeting, both on site and on Zoom, for members to get together and spend time catching up with each other or working on sleights and routines. For our Zoom participants, we will leave the room open after the official conclusion of the evening's program. It will mean someone there who is staying on that night to take responsibility to close the room when everyone is done, but it is a simple enough matter to turn over hosting duties to the person who volunteers to do that.

Someone asked about one-on-one mentoring with seasoned magicians. We do that for anyone interested if they let us know what they are looking for and if we have someone who has knowledge in the field of interest.



Please feel free to let me know at one of our meetings or email me at [omahamagician55@cox.net](mailto:omahamagician55@cox.net).

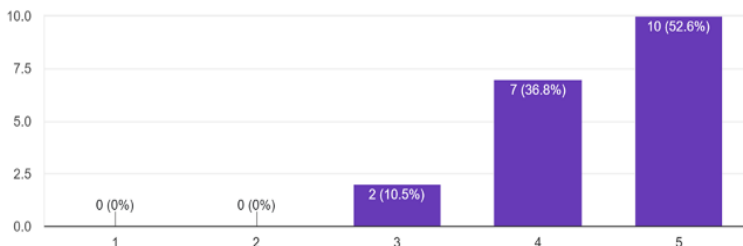
We have also added some content in the OMS Directory to help folks connect to various groups as well. As an example, if you were interested in becoming an instructor for our Junior Magicians, you would go into the app under "Groups," tap on "Junior Magicians," then click on one of the contact names listed and be linked to their contact information. If you have not downloaded that app yet, go to the OMS website, scroll down to "Directory" and a short video will give you the info you need. If you have a group to list, contact me with the information.

Lastly, for this month at least, there were a couple of folks wondering about a possible return of the *Wizard's Banquet*. The short answer is, once someone comes forward to head the committee that is needed to coordinate that event, the Banquet will return. If you feel called to accept that task, please let me know and I will do what I can to point you to the necessary resources you will need to get started.

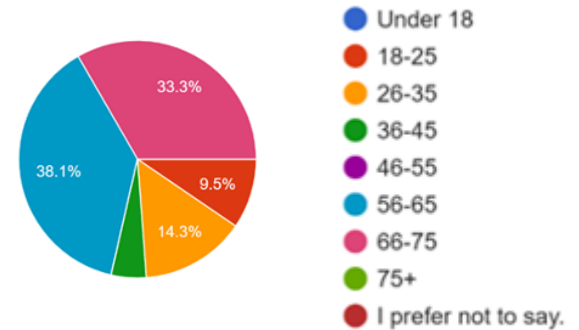
Looking forward to our October meeting and seeing the close-up performances of our four members who have volunteered for the evening; **Denny Rourke**, **Trevor Groenjes**, **Aleister Knight**, and **Adam Schacht**. Each will present a fifteen-minute set at one of four tables and then rotate to a new table so that everyone will get to see each of them perform. Come a half hour early for pizza and to chat with other members ahead of time. Performances will begin at 7 p.m. with 5 minutes between sets. Hope to see you there.

### More results from the survey:

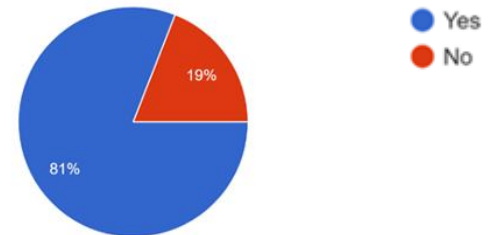
How satisfied are you with the facilities provided by the Omaha Magic Society?



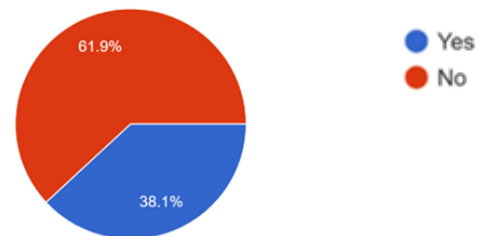
What is your age?



Are you a current member of the Omaha Magic Society?



Are you a current member of the Society of American Magicians?



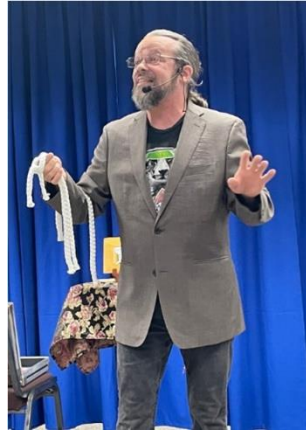
### 2022 OMS Officers

**President** – Steve Nespor ..... [omahamagician55@gmail.com](mailto:omahamagician55@gmail.com)  
**Vice President** – Bruce Jacoby..... [bruce@colorfulmagic.com](mailto:bruce@colorfulmagic.com)  
**Secretary** – Patrice Fisher ..... [patricekfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:patricekfisher@yahoo.com)  
**Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer ..... [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)  
**Sgt-at-Arms** – Tim Begley ..... [tpbegley@cox.net](mailto:tpbegley@cox.net)  
**Executive Director** - Dave Arch ..... [dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com)

### Props, Premise, and Players

Stash, Vortex, SpeakEasy, The Awakening, Card-Toon, Hover-Card, Crazt-8, and Red Rover creator **Dan Harlan** performed for our September Monthly Magic event! Yes, the man who fooled Penn and Teller performed in person for us and then taught a master class for a full house of OMS members!

Seconds into his rope illusion, it was clear that we were very lucky to have this creative genius performing for us on our stage in the intimacy of our meeting room. His story-telling, timing, and creativity were presented with the perfection that has made him well-known throughout the society of major magicians today.



Dan's respect for his audience came through in all of his effects because of his likable persona, scripting, and preparation. We are truly grateful for the knowledge and skills he shared during the several hours he spent with us. In slow motion, he showed us many examples of how the larger motion hides the smaller sleight of hand, dexterity needed to fool the spectator. It was such fun to watch him perform and learn from a master inventor of so many magical routines.



Jered and Dan

Dan strives to have magic seem to just happen by playing a role of not having control of how the illusion happens. This gives the audience a break from reality and the need to analyze the moves while they occur and to just experience the pure joy of magic. His process in developing his magic begins with three aspects: props, premise and players. First, he designs his prop. Next, the premise is developed that usually has a problem that needs to be resolved. This leads to a story that is carefully scripted with all of the elements of a novel: a beginning, middle and ending (the reveal). He emphasized that scripting is imperative to any performance. Attention to the premise of the story drives the props and players for the routine.

Scripting can make performing so much easier. If you script before developing your story differently with each iteration of the trick, then you can more easily fine-tune your act, and eliminate unnecessary verbiage. The magician can perform confidently and with ease to better heighten the experience for the audience. It allows a good magician to smoothly create something out of nothing--"No Way moments"--because he knows something the audience does not to create those "No Way" moments. The importance of props, premise, and players were practiced by Dan in his routines and his master class for the evening.

"The process of creating, writing, and practicing one's craft can be tedious or it can be your friend" was one of his quotes that stayed with me after the night ended. His close friendship with all of these aspects of his craft came through with every move he made. - **Patrice Fisher**



Outing after the lecture



## Larry's Logic

### THE PROPS

So, you've analyzed the method (how it works), and you've decided that you know how to make this trick the most magical effect that you can.

But have you? Have you actually looked at the props themselves?



Now props are a touchy subject in my experience. FOR ME...I want props that don't look like props. I want paper bags, I want cardboard boxes, I want hankies not silks.

Because to me, if a prop looks "magical", the audience will assume it is in some way gimmicked.

Whereas I can actually use a gimmicked paper bag, but since it appears normal, it works. Well, as long as I don't do anything stupid.

So, to me the RICE, CHECKERS, ORANGE trick that looks like this:



is obviously a MAGIC TRICK BOX.

Whereas this is SO MUCH better!!!!



This looks like a stylized pantry, cookies, milk bottle and refrigerator.

This looks like a THEATRICAL prop...not a MAGICAL prop. It could even be some pieces from a BARBIE'S DREAM HOUSE.

And really, this all comes down to effort. The amount of work you'd have to go through to make someone believe that the red/gold dragon themed box is normal and UNGIMMICKED is so much more than making someone believe you found this tiny refrigerator at a toy store.

And if you have to expend a ton of effort, you should make sure you're receiving a TON of return value. And the ton of effort in the dragon box is merely to get you the same level of belief that I get from using a paper bag.

Now imagine this same trick with a mailing tube, a cardboard box, some packing peanuts, and an autographed baseball, and some autographed hockey pucks.



Who would think this is gimmicked? Not too many people. You'd have relatively little work "proving" that everything is ok.



So, look at the props. Do you feel that the audience is going to believe that they have NOTHING to do with the trick? Or are they going to think *that if they had the props, they could do the trick too!*

Because that second line of thought is something I NEVER want an audience to think.

Sadly, there are relatively few options when the prop is decorated with gold dragons, etc. You can:

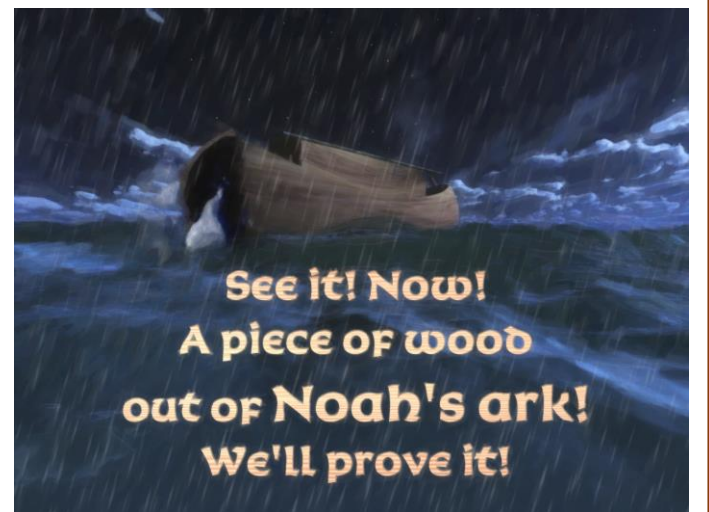
- remodel the prop. Repaint, cover with veneers, etc.
- spend time and effort writing a cover story.
- Find a different supplier of the same trick with better props.

BTW: The final option can be VERY pricey.

- What you do depends on:
- your finances
- if the prop CAN be redecorated.
- If you can figure out what a GOOD redecoration would be.
- How good you are at rationalizing odd looking props.



Johnny and his paper bag washing machine.



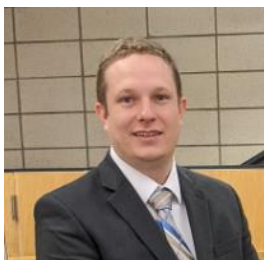
Seeing the colorful banner, you decide it would be worth a couple of bucks to satisfy your curiosity. You pay your money and enter the well-worn tent only to see a scholarly looking gentleman standing on a small stage with a piece of old wood sitting in a glass display case on a table beside him.

Sure enough, the man declares "Step closer and see this most unusual artifact. Gather around and see this piece of wood out of the original ark of Noah!"

When suddenly from the crowd someone (undoubtedly an accomplice) calls out "But your poster said you could prove it! Prove it!"

"Ah yes," the presenter replied - maintaining his academic tone. "As you can clearly see this piece of wood is not IN Noah's ark as it is here with us present in this room. Consequently, if it's not IN Noah's ark, logic tells us that it must be OUT OF Noah's ark."

The music then started as the crowd was hurriedly ushered out of the tent to make room for the next curious group



## [Theron Milo Christensen](#) (from Face Book)

Friends! Just wanted to let you all know that October 21st would be a great time to watch an episode of **Fool Us**. No specific reason 😊 Hope everyone is doing well--it was fun to see so many familiar faces at the Dan Harlan lecture.

(Steve Nespor foresees an Omaha Watch Party! Check at our meeting.)



*Monday Night*

*Magic*

**FEATURING**  
**PIZZA AND PRESTIDIGITATION!**

Sponsored by **The Omaha Magical Society**

*Come and enjoy an evening of food and fun!*

A Godfather's pizza buffet combines with sodas and an hour of Close-Up In The Corners™ - featuring four of our club's performers.

Each close-up performer presents in one corner of the room; the audience will be divided into four groups; and each performer rotates to a new group at the conclusion of their fifteen minute routine.

***FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TOO.***

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom:

**<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>**

\$3.00 suggested donation per person

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 | 6:30-8:00 PM (CDT)**

The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street • Omaha, Nebraska



## THE HALLOWEEN BUNNY CARD TRICK

by Dave Arch



I'm pleased to say that Lowe's, quickly becoming one of my favorite magic stores, did not disappoint with their Halloween offerings this year. They had a scary looking bunny with flashing eyes riding a tricycle. A child was playing with it in the aisle when I first saw that it road its little trike around in a circle.

I watched carefully, and when the child put the little fellow back on the shelf, I picked him up, bought him, and took him home with an idea in mind.

Deep in the bottom of my excess magic drawer I miraculously found a deck of cards with about a dozen different cards on the face of the deck and the same force card throughout the rest of the deck.

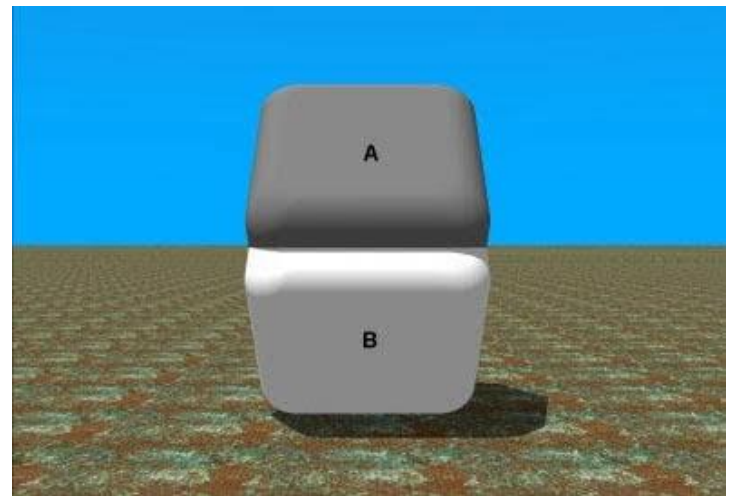
Spreading the deck face up the first dozen or so cards cause the deck to look ordinary. Then turning it face down enables me to spread the cards and have the force card selected. Taking a dozen or so cards from the top of the face down deck, I can have the card replaced and shuffled face down in that packet. With good audience management, the spectator can even shuffle the cards.

I now introduce my little weird looking friend on his tricycle. I put the dozen or so cards face down in a circle - asking the participant at which point in the circle s/he would like the little guy to begin. He drives his trike in a circle and stops at a card.

At that point, I pick up the remainder of the cards and put them back in the card box with the rest of the deck and turn over the card the bunny stopped at only to find that the rabbit did indeed find the correct card.

Although I'm not sure that this next idea might be taking it a tad too far, I'm giving serious consideration to making a little blindfold for the rabbit - incorporating a blindfold tricycle drive at the same time. Then again ... maybe not.

## Magic Trick to Fool Yourself!



Show the picture of the two different colored blocks to your audience. Yes . . .they can even be examined!

Take a pen as your makeshift magic wand and wave it back and forth over the blocks - ultimately placing it down on the picture horizontally between the two blocks.

Get ready to be amazed as the blocks change into the same color!

Pick up the pen/wand - waving it as you do and be gob smacked again as the blocks return to different colors - helping you keep alive that feeling of amazement for yourself.



As you might know, the club's board is committed to not raising dues for the club from its current \$20 per year. (So that anyone can afford to be a member.) With approximately 38 paying members, dues aren't enough to cover the monthly budget as you'll see below.

- Hall Rental - \$50
- My Emma Database - \$45
- OMS Website - \$27
- Newsletter - \$30
- Vimeo Video Library - \$20
- Zoom - \$30 (2 licenses)
- Online Membership Directory - \$7.90
- Non-Profit Association Of The Midlands - \$4.00
- Quick Books Subscription - \$6.25

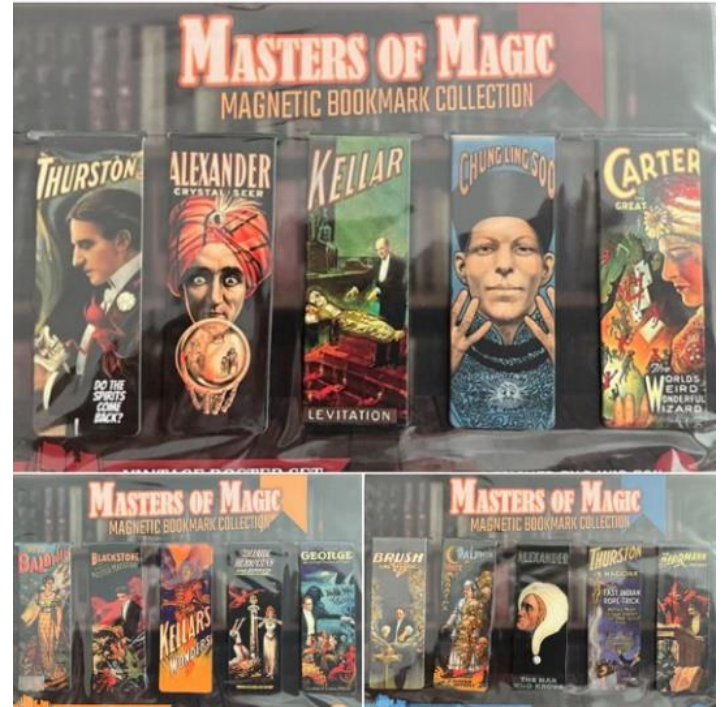
**TOTAL - \$218 per month**

So, each year we look for a group of 15 people who will commit to a donation of \$15 per month for a year to cover the above monthly on-going operating expenses. Is this something you might be willing/able to do? Last year when we did this for the first time, we did fill all 15 slots for the twelve months. A few even donated for more than one \$15 slot.

If you decide to help in this way, you can use the **PayPal button** on our website to automatically send \$15 per month. [Donate \(theomahamagicalsociety.org\)](https://www.theomahamagicalsociety.org)

Or you can direct mail a check to our club treasurer, Bob Gehringer. (13405 Marinda Street/Omaha, NE. 68134) each month for twelve months. And it is tax deductible. Bob will send you a receipt at the end of the year. Thanks for doing what you can.

THANK YOU magic poster magnetic bookmarks (Created by our own David Fox.) will ship to those who have committed their monthly support.



Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that **Omaha Magicial Society** (EIN: 35-2689855) has been issued a **\$107.47** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between April 1 and June 30, 2022.

**The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account between August 31 - September 6, 2022.**

Thank you,  
Your AmazonSmile Team





### MAGIC OF THE NIGHT HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

7:30PM  
Saturday, October 29th  
40th Street Theater  
Omaha, Nebraska



**Saturday, October 29th, 2022**

**Doors open at 6:30pm (bar will be available)  
Main Stage Magic Show starts at 7:30pm**

HAUNTED MAGIC SHOW at Omaha's Historic 40th Street Theater on Saturday the 29th of October. Doors open at 6:30pm with the stage show starting at 7:30pm. All seating is first come, first served. This year, the theatre will be immediately open upon arrival and there will be a 10-minute intermission at the halfway point in the show. The building is over 110 years old and is shrouded with ghost stories. This is your opportunity to see something truly magical: sorcery, mind reading, sleight of hand, and maybe even a ghost! - All mixed in with some Halloween fun.

Join **David Michael Fox, Ryan Chandler, Theron Christensen, Dennis Rourke, and Steve Lindeman** for an evening of magic and mentalism sure to be the highlight of your Halloween season: The 6th Annual Magic of the Night!

Go to [Oldmarketmagician.com](http://Oldmarketmagician.com) for more details.



Joe Cole will be performing 3 to 4 times per day at the Wild Kingdom Pavilion at the Henry Doorley Zoo during their Ghouls and Glow Event. For details go to [omahazoo.com](http://omahazoo.com)

### Line up for our October Monday Night Magic



**Denny Rourke**, one of this month's Monday Night Magic close up performers, is a very entertaining Close-Up Magician. His agile sleight of hand, lively comedy and clever illusions are a real treat to behold. Denny is also the author of

“The Everything Card Tricks Book.”



**Adam Schacht** (Adamagic) has been a part time performing professional magician for 17 years, performing his first paid show at 10 years old! He traveled the world with the Young Americans where he was able to also share magic across the globe. After graduating Midland

University, next door in Fremont, NE, Adam enjoyed Omaha and decided to stay! View Adam's promotional video here: <https://www.adamagic52.com>



**Trevor Groenje's** parents bought him a magic kit when he was six years old. He started juggling and eating fire when he was in high school, until his shenanigans had earned him the nickname Tricky Trevor. As

part of his close up set next Monday evening, he's promised an obscure full deck story routine I had never come across.



In anticipation of Halloween, **Aleister Knight**, The Artist of Artifice, has promised to include some bizarre magic in his close up set at next Monday evening's Monday Night Magic. While his true love is with playing cards and sleight of hand, his mixture of intense sleights,

spooky mentalism, geek stunts, and bizarre story elements have made him a truly unique entertainer.



## Monday Night Magic

**Monday October 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Cross Training Center  
5030 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE

**We start at 6:30 for the Godfather's pizza.  
Suggested \$3.00 donation.**

Or just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

**It's that time again.** - In accordance with our constitution and bylaws, a nominating committee for 2023 OMS Officers has been appointed so as to be in place by the September meeting. The committee shall report recommendations at the October meeting. Election of officers shall be held at the November meeting and installation of officers shall be at the December meeting. To be placed on the nomination list contact either **Joyce Becwar Chleboun** at [jddiamondmagic@gmail.com](mailto:jddiamondmagic@gmail.com), or **Ryan Chandler** at [oldmarketmagician@gmail.com](mailto:oldmarketmagician@gmail.com)

13405 Marinda St.  
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